Acquisition Directorate

C4ISR

Mission execution begins *here*.

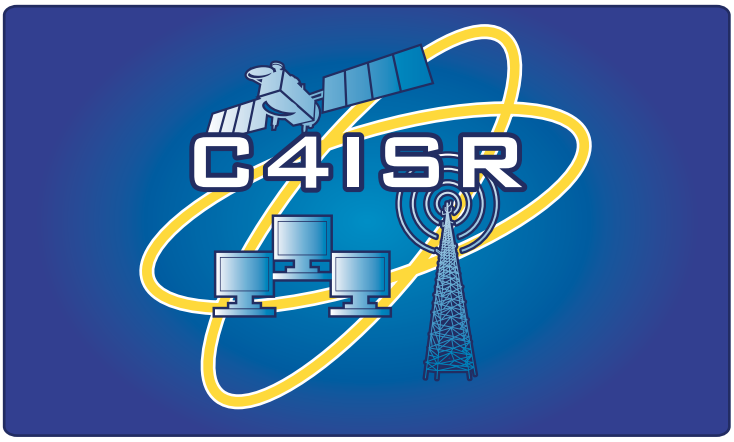
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Coast Guard's Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems acquisition project is a multi-year effort to design, develop and integrate the equipment used on the Coast Guard's newest assets, including the National Security Cutter (NSC), Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), Long Range Surveillance (LRS) aircraft (HC-130J) and the Medium Range Surveillance (MRS) aircraft (HC-144A). The project acquires and integrates electronic sensors, networking, data processing and information-sharing equip¬ment, which help Coast Guard operators develop effective situational awareness and interoperate with partner agencies.

Additionally, the C4ISR project enhances the command, control and communication capabilities of in-service cutters, boats and aircraft. As the service transitions from obsolete command and control networks to a new standard, called Seawatch, this effort will help to link the Coast Guard's older assets with its newest.

The Coast Guard uses C4ISR systems to produce actionable information, improve situational awareness and enhance efficient collaboration among Coast Guard operators and those of partner agencies. At the operational level, this information helps command staff to efficiently apply resources, prioritize missions, and, at the tactical level, automate some watch-stander tasks. At the strategic and national levels, these information products enable more effective and efficient mission execution, improving both maritime domain awareness and maritime homeland security outcomes.

The Coast Guard's C4ISR acquisition strategy features a segmented approach to delivering command, control and communications capability. Each subsequent segment builds upon the previous to avoid technology obsolescence and bring new capability to the fleet at a faster rate. In the process, the project is helping the Coast Guard to establish a new C4ISR capabilities baseline, including the authority to pass data on the Department of Defense classified networks, as well as laying the foundation for greater



interoperability among Coast Guard and partner agencies by adopting an open architecture paradigm for future C4ISR equipment. This paradigm will help the Coast Guard to minimize life-cycle costs and keep pace with technology obsolescence by acquiring state-of-the-market, plug-and-play C4ISR tools and capabilities.

Once completed, the C4ISR project will bring online the Coast Guard's most capable communications and technology infrastructure and integrate the largest recapitalization effort in the service's history.

For updates on C4ISR, visit the project's website at http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/c4isr/.

FEATURES:

- Initial baseline requirements developed a proprietary, complex C4ISR baseline for NSCs, HC 144s, and HC 130Js
- Coast Guard is transitioning to an open architecture of Coast Guard-controlled components with government software data rights
- Federated baseline places the Coast Guard in the role of systems integrator, creating a common baseline across all surface and aviation assets procured under ongoing major systems acquisition projects